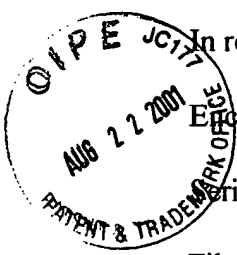


#6

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re application of :  
Etchi HATAE et al. : Docket 2001\_0749A  
Serial No. 09/880,040 : Group Art Unit 2651  
Filed June 14, 2001 :

REMAINING RECORDABLE TIME CALCULATION  
APPARATUS THAT CONVERTS AMOUNT OF FREE  
AREA OF RECORDING MEDIUM INTO TIME

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED  
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE  
FEE FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT  
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975.

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,  
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

Kindly amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 44, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Then, the time calculation unit 32 calculates the remaining recordable time using the amount of free area in the optical disk (S1501). This process is identical to those shown as steps S503-S507 in the flowchart (Fig. 5) relating to the first embodiment.